Weymouth. Nov 7. 1839.
Thursday afternoon.

Dear Deborah,

As I am well aware that what I have now to write will be to you a very great shock, let me before going any farther, say to you that your own immediate family are well. It is concerning Grandma that I now write - no detail & no preparation will materially alter your feelings, or lighten what I have to say. Grandma died this morning about ½ past 12. The day after you left I got a letter from Aunt Mary inclosed in one from Hervey, summoning me home. Both letters spoke of Grandma as very ill. She had been seized on Sunday night with a most violent pain in her feet & legs which the Dr called cramp. They at first thought it ~~was an p tw~~ rheumatism, but it was the stoppage of all circulation I suppose, the beginning of mortification. The Dr recommended alcohol & pepper (cayenne) as a bath, and ordered all manner of stimulants of that kind. But the pain was not removed but by opium; several of these turns occurred, but were subdued by some anodyne or other. These drops however, I suppose tended to confuse her mind ~~more - the~~ considerably for she never I believe held much connected discourse after taking them - I came out in the stage and went almost immediately to Grandma's. Sally Reed was there and finally it was thought best she should watch there - As many things were being done for Grandma I did not go into the room till after eight

227

I thought her then very much altered and it was evident to me that she knew very little of what was going on round her. I spoke to her but she took no notice whatever. Indeed, after this she never spoke. We all sat up till 12 & then went to bed in the inner room, Aunt Phebe & Miss Reed sitting up. The things that were done for her during the night worked well, but nothing encouraged me at all, for I felt a persuasion that the hour was come. Aunt Mary I think, thought the same, but the others cherished hopes till this morning. But as soon as I rose, a little after 5. I perceived a great alteration in her breathing. The night before, she breathed gently, but this morning she breathed very deeply & when Dr F. came he said she had sunk very much. She grew totally insensible & I believe never swallowed after the middle of the forenoon. The breathing grew more & more hurried, then came the rattling in the throat, and about half past 12, after a struggle of several minutes, the sufferings of 89 yrs ended. Rhoda Arnold & myself were with her. Aunt Priscilla had left the room a few minutes previous and the rest had not been much in the room for an hour or two. Your greatest cause of anxiety will be how they bear it. As well I think as could have been expected. I do not know how it may be hereafter, but at present, though deeply afflicted they are composed. Aunt Phebe I fear is too much so. There is a firmness and energy that was unexpected to me. Mrs Perrie, Mrs Fifield, Rhoda & I did all that was necessary and we esteem it a great blessing that we had not to summon strangers. Henry went with Mr Kingsbury's horse for Caroline, but she did not get here till all was over. And now for your course. We have ~~Abrate~~ decided that the funeral shall be a private one & shall take place on Monday afternoon. Grand ma always wished to be kept as long as possible, & they will, of course, observe her wishes. This letter cannot go till tomorrow, Friday, at 10 o'clock & I do not suppose that you will get it till Saturday morning, you can then take the cars to Boston in the afternoon. I believe there is an afternoon train Saturday. Then you can come to Weymouth on Sunday, or come down with Henry & Maria, Monday. If there is no train Saturday or Sunday, perhaps Mr Howland can carry you part way & you take some stage, or you can make some other arrangement. I leave it with you repeating for the sake of perfect clearness, that she will be buried Monday. I suppose they will wear no mourning. She looks very placidly & calmly - I will try to put in a line tomorrow before the stage comes. All are well at our house. Pa has been here a good deal & been of great assistance. All the circumstances attending this long dreaded event have been as mercifully arranged as could well be - I have suffered a great deal, not so much from personal sorrow, though that I deeply feel, as from sympathy with the folks here, and the deep saddening conviction that if I live this is but a precursor of events that will be far different to me from this. yrs forever Anne W. Weston.

Dear Debora - I got home about 2 - this afternoon - but all was over - they tell me I should not have been recognized had I come in season to find her living - I am full of thankfulness that her departure has taken place so quietly - that there has been less distress & exhaustion than I feared & if - the funeral does not distress them more

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[illegible] as I trust from the quiet plans propose[illegible] it would not - this visitation will have been as mercifully arranged as possible. Grand ma had no protracted suffering [illegible] fever & they could not [illegible] entirely I trust & they will [illegible] & be [illegible] tranquil - I am troubled that you should have gone to return so soon - but you will come of course - I am troubled that you should have this grief & anxiety alone - from home but it seems your fate - yours in love Caroline the day we have all named yet I should not be astonished if we were obliged to finish the last work on Sunday.

Yrs ever. A. W. Weston

Miss Deborah Weston.
Care of James H. Howland Esq.
New Bedford.

Will the Post master please to forward this immediately.

MOUTH MASS.
NOV
8

PAID

10

Friday morning.

Caroline & I staid here all night. They are about as well as could be thought. Aunt Priscilla is a good deal distressed, but I hope will get along without being worn down. – I think you had better try to be in Boston Sat night if possible for though Monday is

MS.A.9.2.12.78